



**Prescott National Forest**  
**Bradshaw Ranger District**  
928 443-8000  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/prescott>



## **GOLDWATER LAKE TRAIL #396**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Goldwater Lake Trail #396, which lies within the Granite Creek watershed, is a forested trail shaded by dense stands of ponderosa pine that occasionally give way to alligator juniper and chaparral-type vegetation. There are excellent views of both of Upper and Lower Goldwater Lake, as well as the high country to the east and west. TR 396 traverses a landscape of hills and ridges and their associated drainages, which are green with Gamble's oak, a variety of grasses, and in some of the more significant drainages, classic riparian species such as willow and boxelder. The trail crosses Bannon Creek twice, which may be flowing in the spring. Birds are especially active in these areas, creating outstanding opportunities for birdwatching.

Upper Goldwater Lake can be accessed from the eastern portion of TR 396 via a network of marked City of Prescott trails. The western portion of the trail provides access to trails serving the adjacent White Spar Campground.

**CAUTION:** This trail is open to hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bicyclists.  
Please be considerate of others—slow down and know when to yield the trail.

**ACCESS AND TRAILHEAD LOCATION:** From its intersection with Gurley Street, travel south on Mt. Vernon, which will soon turn into Senator Highway, for about 4 miles. Just past milepost 4 on Senator Highway, there is an open area on the left (east). Park here. TR 396 is directly across (west) Senator Highway. Watch for traffic as you cross the road.

To reach the west trailhead, travel south on White Spar Road (SH89) for about 2.8 miles from the Courthouse Square. Turn left (east) at the sign for White Spar Campground. Park in the lot to the right. TR 396 starts on the east part of the parking area.

**ROAD CONDITIONS:** Paved

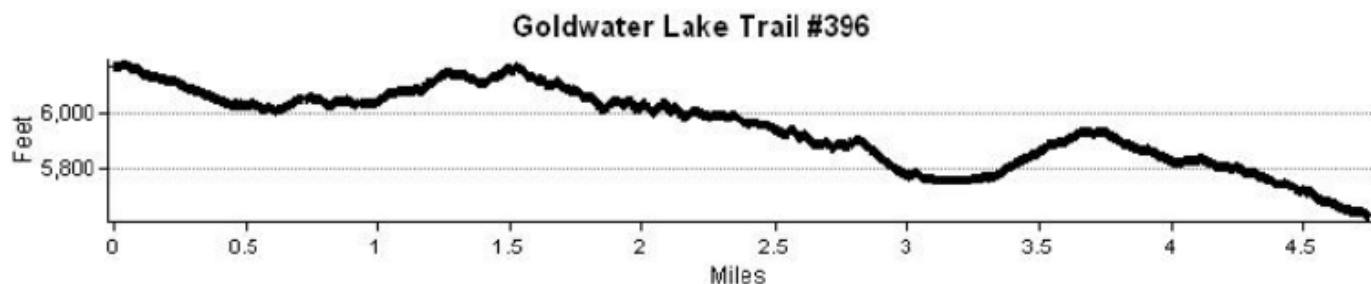
**TRAVEL TIME:** 10 minutes from Prescott

**HIKING TIME:** 2.5 hours, one-way **LENGTH:** 4.7 miles **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate **USE:** Moderate

**NOTES:** The entire length of TR 396 is part of the 50 mile long Prescott Circle Trail. There are no restrooms at either trailhead. Please refrain from using horses and bikes when the trail is wet.

**RECOMMENDED SEASONS OF USE:** Spring, summer, fall

**MAPS, OTHER RESOURCES:** Prescott National Forest Map, west half; U.S.G.S. topographic 7.5' quads for Prescott and Groom Creek, National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map—Bradshaw Mountains, City of Prescott Trails and Outdoor Recreation Map. Yavapai Trails Association online version of the Prescott Circle Trail Guide at:  
[http://yavapai-trails.org/Resources/prescott\\_circle\\_trail.html](http://yavapai-trails.org/Resources/prescott_circle_trail.html)

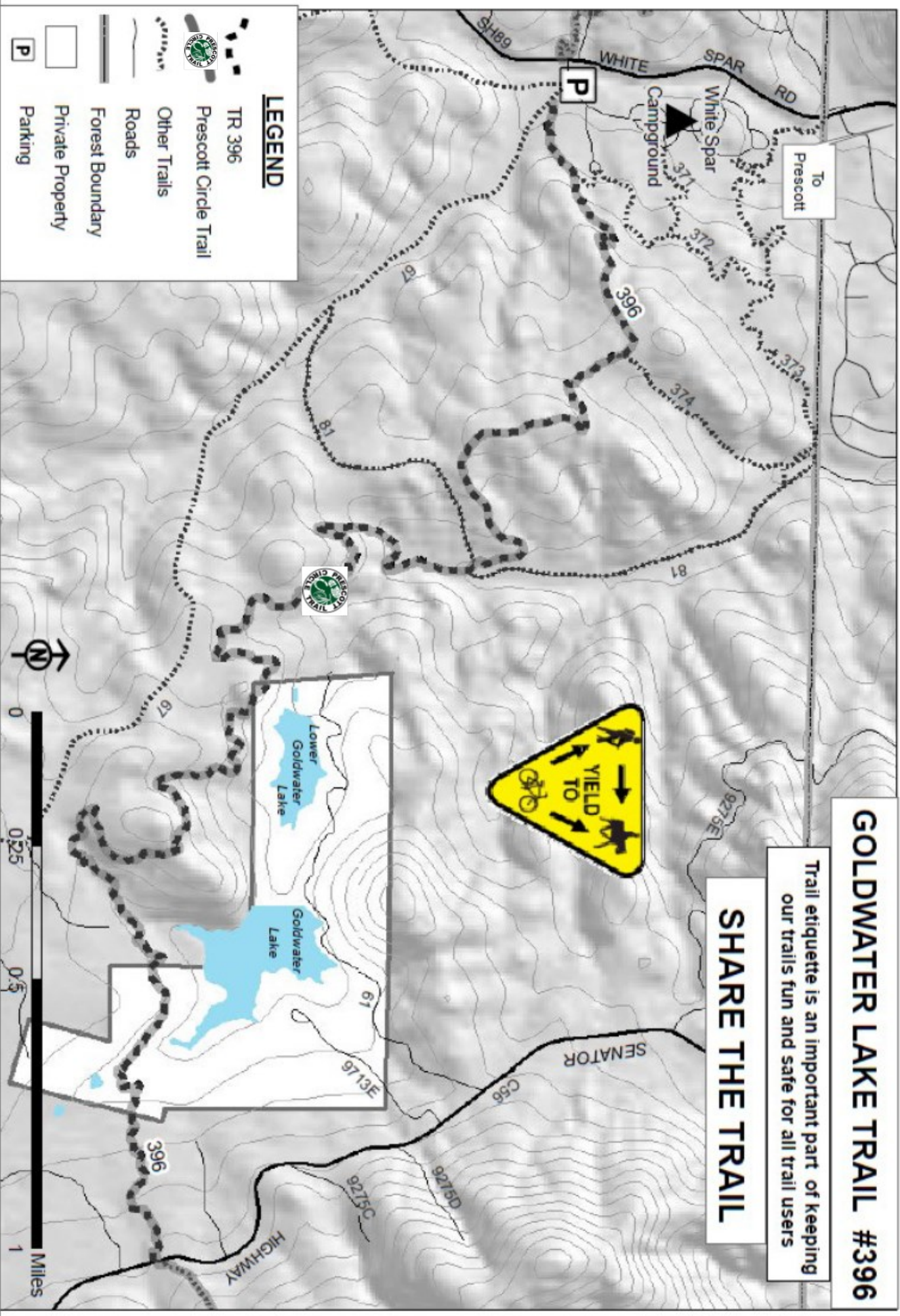


November 7, 2013

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Trail etiquette is an important part of keeping our trails fun and safe for all trail users

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### LEGEND

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